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# 'Soldiers' Of The Far Right

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The Counter-Insurgency Council, Collinsville, Ill., once was in Minutemen, but with right, seen at maneuvers before he left.

By BERNARD GAVZER

**T**ODAY IN the United States there are hundreds of people—perhaps thousands—who say they are ready at a minute's notice to take up arms as guerrillas. They aren't really worried about an invasion but a Communist take-over from within, without a foreign soldier so much as setting a toe on American soil. These people—grocers, mechanics, salesmen, laborers, shop owners, housewives—are theoretically action-ready. At the proper signal, they supposedly would be able to:

- Round up potential enemies. They already have secret lists of "subversives"—a classification which might include the most ordinary citizen if, for example, he was publicly known to support the United Nations.

- Go underground and bear arms. This could mean going into the trenches against an invasion force, but most likely being a soldier in a guerrilla force opposing a Communist take-over.
- Assassinate Communist leaders or any powerful figures working with Communists.
- Form a caretaker government (if victorious against insurrections) or an underground government (a sort of government-in-exile) until a constitutional government could reestablish the United States as a constitutional republic.

### *Soldiers Of The Right*

To be able to do these things, they now go on field maneuvers, have regular target practice, collect stocks of weapons and ammunition, watch neighbors and strangers and get instruction in such technicalities as karate.

These are the self-styled soldiers of the paramilitary right. Paramilitary means

they profess to be nonmilitary but nevertheless have an underlying military pattern.

Fitting this description are such organizations as the Minutemen, with headquarters in Norborne, Mo.; the California Rangers, operating in the Los Angeles metropolitan area; the National States Rights Party, Birmingham, Ala.; the Paul Revere Associated Yeomen, Inc., New Orleans, and the Counter-Insurgency Council, Collinsville, Ill. All describe themselves as patriot groups.

These organizations have been dismissed by their critics as havens for malcontents. But to their supporters, these citizens are the spiritual heirs of the men at Lexington and Concord—the citizen militiamen of the American Revolution.

Figures as to strength, details as to effectiveness, information as to activities are difficult to come by and open to argument.